British citizens were allowed to bring in husbands/fiances.

The European Court of Human Rights held that the U.K. Immigration Rules violated the Human Rights Convention by discriminating between the sexes. The Rules were changed on 26-8-1985 to bring the provisions for the admission of husbands and wives for settlement into line with the European Court Verdict.

The amended rules will allow women legally setted in the U.K., irrespective of their citzenship, to bring in their husbands. However, before they are given entry clearance, such spouses are required to satisfy some additional conditions. The requirements under the old rules, including the requirement to satisfy the Entry Clearance Officer that the marriage was not entered into primarily for immigration apply to wives also. The New rules have also strengthened the provisions relating to maintenance and accommodation.

Negotiations for Purchase of Seaking Helicopters Sea Harrier Aircraft and HMS Hermes from Britain

1187. SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has been negotiating for the purchase of Seaking helicopters, Sea Harrier aircraft and the naval aircraft carrier HMS Hermes from Britain; and

(b) whether any argeement has been entered into with Britain in this regard if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARUN SINGH): (a) and (b) No negotiations are being conducted with the U.K. for the purchase of Seaking helicopters or of HMS Hermes although an offer for the later has been received.

A contract has been signed on the 25th November, 1985 with M/s British Aerospace, U.K. for the supply of 11 Sea Harrier Aircraft together with supporting equipment, spares etc. A contract has also been signed with M/s Rolls Royce, U.K. for some spare engines. The value of the supplies is of the order of about £150 million.

Self-Immolation by an Ex-Serviceman in Delhi

1188. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an ex-serviceman recently set himself on fire in Delhi on account of failure of the authorities concerned to settle his pensionary benefits from the army; and

(b) if so, what is the result of the inquiry, if any, conducted by Government into the matter and the action taken for non-settlement of his claim leading to his self-immolation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARUN SINGH): (a) and (b) An Ex-Servicemen, (Gunner) T.N. Balu, is reported to have set himself on fire recently in Delhi. He was demanding pension for his service in the Army. However, as his total qualifying Military service fell short of the minimum service required for earning pension, he was not entitled to it. He was entitled for service gratuity only. The same has been paid to him and this was clarified in the reply to his petition.

Recall of Security Guards from the Hague

1189. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some security guards were recalled to India from the Hague;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government propose to conduct any independent enquiry into the matter and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN): (a) and (b) One security guard was recalled by the Ministry because of serious breach of security, dereliction of duty and moral turpitude, despite repeated cautioning.

(c) Does not arise.

Firing Between Indian and Pakistani Troops in Poonch and Rajouri Sectors

1190. SHRI SYED AHMAD HASHMI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there had been intermittent exchange of fire between Indian and Pakistani troops across the line of control in Poonch and Rajouri Sectors in Jammu and Kashmir during the months of August, September and October, and the 1st week of November, 1985;

(b) if so, what is the number of such incidents so far in 1985 and the number of persons killed or injured in these incidents; and

(c) what is Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARUN SINGH): (a) and (b) There have been some cases of exchange of fire between Indian and Pakistani troops across the Line of Control in Poonch sector this year. There has, however, been no such incident in the Rajouri sector.

There has been no casualty amongst our troops in incidents in Poonch sector.

(c) Government keep a close watch on all developments having a bearing on our security with a view to taking appropriate measures to ensure full defence preparedness.

State of readiness of Pakistani troops on the Indo-Pak border

1191. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to recent press reports regarding the intelligence reports to the effect that Pakistan has alerted its troops on the Indo-Pak borders to be in a State of readiness and has cancelled leave of all army personnel, besides taking some other measures in this direction; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction to these development and the steps taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARUN SINGH): (a) and (b) Government have seen the news report in question. However, there is no information about any unusual activity by the Pakistani troops on the Indo-Pak border. It is know that Pakistani troops carry out their winter training exercises and leave of personnel is generally curtailed for this purpose.

Government keep all developments having a bearing on our security under watch and take appropriate measures to ensure full defence preparedness.